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ARGENTINA: The commanders of the three armed services have assumed power following President Levingston's abortive effort to remove army commander General Alejandro Lanusse.

The junta of the commanders in chief, led by General Lanusse, announced early this morning that it was removing President Levingston and that it would "reassume political power until the objectives of the Argentine revolution are fulfilled." General Lanusse will undoubtedly be the strongman in this apparent attempt at collective rule, which will have as its primary objective the return of the country to an elected government. The military's desire to accelerate the return to a representative democracy was largely responsible for the ouster of President Ongania nine months ago and may have been the most serious point of disagreement with Levingston, who favored a delay of four to five years.

Despite Levingston's attempt to tag General Lanusse with responsibility for not preventing the violent riots in Cordoba last week, the army commander appears to have the necessary support in the military to carry out a more rapid return to civilian government. All major troop commanders rallied to the general's side when Levingston announced he was being removed, but this support could weaken quickly if Lanusse fails to demonstrate early progress in solving the nation's pressing political and economic problems.

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French "Atlantic" Maritime Reconnaissance Aircraft

<i>Radius</i>	<i>.....</i>	<i>2,500 nm</i>
<i>Maximum speed</i>	<i>.....</i>	<i>330 kts</i>
<i>Armament</i>	<i>.....</i>	<i>Torpedoes, depth charges, air-to-surface missiles</i>

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FRANCE - BRAZIL - SOUTH AFRICA: Brazil and South Africa reportedly have ordered "Atlantic" maritime reconnaissance aircraft and a new air-to-surface missile system from France.

Brazil has been negotiating for the long-range patrol aircraft equipped with modern antisubmarine warfare gear [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] These planes--together with several ASW frigates ordered from the UK--would enable Brazil to continue to have the most effective ASW force in Latin America. Brazil's interest in these aircraft stems from its desire to patrol the 200-mile strip of ocean that it claims as territorial waters and its increasing concern over the Soviet presence--particularly submarines--in the South Atlantic.

South Africa could use its [REDACTED] Atlantics to replace an aging and smaller Shackleton patrol force, thus significantly improving its ASW capabilities. The sale of these aircraft to South Africa, although not in direct violation of the selective embargo announced by Paris last fall, would most likely move black African leaders to press France for a tighter arms embargo.

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Because the Atlantic is a NATO aircraft, France has requested and received NATO permission for a sale to Brazil. France has not recently approached NATO on a South African sale--perhaps because of previous refusals--and might try to obfuscate the issue by replacing NATO equipment with French gear. Because of a backlog of orders and a low production rate, Brazil and South Africa probably will not begin receiving their planes for at least a year. The air-to-surface missile--the Otomat, now under joint development by France and Italy--is not scheduled to enter production before late 1973.

(Photo)

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